Internet Faciltiy

684. SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN:

DR. RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities connected with 'internet'.

(b) whether there is any proposal to connect 'Kottayam' city in Kerala with internet;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation to provide local internet connectivity at Alleppey in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The following cities are connected to Internet on local dial up basis:

Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Pune, Abmedabad, Bangalore, Jaipur, Dehradun, Trivandrum, Gwalior, Gawhati, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Patna, Lucknow, Kanpur, Goa, Ernakulam, Aurangabad and Indore.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Instructions have been issued for provision of Internet node at Kottayam.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Aleppy has been approved as one of the 51 places approved by elecom. Commission for providing Internet nodes, so that local dial up access to Internet could be provided.

[*Translation*]

Lions in the country

685. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of lions in the country has come down during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the number of white lions presentiy alive;

(c) the year-wise number of lions found dead during each of the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether an progress has been made in respect of rehabilitation of the lions brought from Gujrat in Bhind-Muraina areas; and

(e) if so, the area covered thereunder and the total population alongwith the alternative measures to be adopted for rehabilitation of the displaced families in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Lions are found in the wild only in the Gir forests of Saurashtra in Gujarat. According to the census carried out in May, 1995 their population was 304. In the last census carried out in 1990 the population of lions was 284. There are no reports of any white lions in the wild.

(c) The year-wise number of lions found dead during the last three year is:

	Reasons for death			
Year	Natural	Deliberate	Accidental	Total
1994-95	4	1	3	8
1995-96	12	3	4	19
1996-97	12	9	5	26
	28	13	12	53

(d) and (e) Preliminary activities have been undertaken at the Palpur-Kuno Sanctuary in Morena distt. in Madhya Pradesh to develop the habitat, and prey density, to make it conducive for the re-introduction of lions. The total area of the sanctuary is 1153.41 sq. km. the number of families to be rehabilitated is 1374. Each family is to be provided 2 ha. of developed land, and 502 sq. mts. of land house site. Building materials, cash incentive, community facilities, wood lots and fuel reserves, pasture and fodder plantations etc. are also to be provided within a cost ceiling of Rs. one lakh per family.

[*English*]

Ban on Medicinal Herbs

686. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Government ban on herbs may hit Ayurvedic Doctors' appearing in the 'Times of India' Mumbai dated September 11, 1997.

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Ayurvedic Drugs Manufacturers Association has written to the Government to reconsider the said order;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to study and implement the request?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the export policy, export of 53 plants, plant portions and derivatives obtained from the wild is prohibited. However, their export is allowed if these plants are obtained from cultivated source.